

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated May 15, 2008 (the “*Office Action*”). In the *Office Action*, Claims 1-17 are pending and rejected in this Application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case in view of the following remarks.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0019827 issued to Shiman, et al., (“*Shiman*”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0002955 issued to Gadbois (“*Gadbois*”).

Independent Claim 1 of the present Application, as amended, recites:

A method for use in a Web Services system, comprising:
 providing a Web Services Directory having object classes and attributes; and
 defining attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class, each attribute unique to the specific object class to which the attribute belongs; and
 generating an index based on the specific attribute types

The Office Action rejects Claim 1 and contends that the limitations of Claim 1 are disclosed by *Shiman* and *Gadbois*. However, neither *Shiman* nor *Gadbois*, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest “defining attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class, each attribute unique to the specific object class to which the attribute belongs,” as recited in Claim 1.

Although *Shiman*, which is relied upon as the primary reference, discloses that “[a]ttributes are characteristics of a database “object class” (*Shiman*, page 1, paragraph 9), there is no suggestion in *Shiman* that the each attribute is unique to specific object class to which the attribute belongs. Rather, *Shiman* merely discloses:

An object class defines a type of object comprised of certain attributes. Classes are abstract, specifying a type of object that may be created.

Objects are discrete manifestations of object classes. In general, objects are metaphors for objects are defined by the values of their attributes in their abstract object class. In general, objects are metaphors for tangible entities, such as people and documents; these objects are defined by the values of their attributes in their abstract object class. Persons have names, haircolor, height, and weight. A person's unique identify is the collection of these attribute values. Every object can be indexed by the value of its primary key attribute, a unique name for the object.

(*Shiman*, page 1, paragraph 9). Thus, *Shiman* only indicates that an object class includes certain attributes and that **the collection** of these attributes values may be used to uniquely identify the object. For example, *Shiman* indicates that within an object class for people, the attributes of name, haircolor, height, and weight may be used to uniquely identify a person, when considered **collectively**. Disclosing that an object class includes certain attributes is not analogous to disclosing that an only one object class includes certain attributes.

Applicants' claim language specifically requires that each attribute is unique to the specific **object class** to which the attribute belongs. In the example described above, there is no disclosure in *Shiman*, however, that object classes other than the people object class cannot also include an attribute for name, haircolor, height, or weight. Accordingly, where the attribute system disclosed in *Shiman* is additionally applied to an object class for businesses, such an object class might also include a name attribute. Additionally, although *Shiman* discloses a primary key attribute for indexing, *Shiman* specifies that the primary key attribute is a unique name **for the object**. *Shiman* does not specify that the attribute is unique to the **object class**, as recited in Applicants' claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that *Shiman* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "defining attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class, each attribute unique to the specific object class to which the attribute belongs," as recited in Claim 1. *Gadbois*, which is relied upon only for disclosure of a web services directory, does not cure the deficiencies of *Shiman* identified above.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully contend that neither *Shiman* nor *Gadbois*, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the limitations of Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1. For analogous

reasons, Applicants also request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 7 and 13.

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-17 are patentable at least because they depend on Claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively, which Applicants have shown above to be allowable. Additionally, Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-17 are patentable because they recite additional features and operation not disclosed, taught, or suggested in the prior art. As examples only and not by way of limitation, Applicants respectfully contend the proposed *Shiman-Gadbois* combination does not disclose, teach, or suggest that "the object classes are a subclass of an abstract object class," as recited in Claims 2, 8, and 14. In the *Office Action*, the Examiner relies on *Shiman* for disclosure of the recited claim elements. (*Office Action*, page 3). However, *Shiman* merely discloses that classes of objects "are abstract" and, thus, specify "a type of object that may be created." (*Shiman*, page 1, paragraph 9). Thus, "objects are defined by the values of their attributes in their abstract object class." (*Shiman*, page 1, paragraph 9). Accordingly, while *Shiman* discloses abstract object classes, there is no disclosure in *Shiman* at all of "subclasses" within an abstract object class. As such, *Shiman* and the proposed *Shiman-Gadbois* combination as relied upon by the Examiner does not disclose, teach, or suggest that "the object classes are a subclass of an abstract object class," as recited in Claims 2, 8, and 14.

As further examples, Applicants respectfully contend the proposed *Shiman-Gadbois* combination does not disclose, teach, or suggest "providing specific attributes which relate to one object class for a purpose of enhancing searching," as recited in Claims 6 and 12. As discussed above with regard to Claim 1, *Shiman* only indicates that an object class includes certain attributes and that the collection of these attributes values may be used to uniquely identify the object. For example, *Shiman* indicates that within an object class for people, the attributes of name, haircolor, height, and weight may be used to uniquely identify a person, when considered collectively. Disclosing that an object class includes certain attributes is not analogous to providing specific attributes which relate to one object class for a purpose of enhancing searching.

For example, there is no disclosure in *Shiman* that object classes other than the people object class cannot also include an attribute for name, haircolor, height, or weight. Accordingly, where the attribute system disclosed in *Shiman* is additionally applied to an object class for businesses, such an object class might also include a name attribute. Additionally, although *Shiman* discloses a primary key attribute for indexing, *Shiman* specifies that the primary key attribute is a unique name for the specific object. *Shiman* does not specify that the attribute is unique to the object class, as recited in Applicants' claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that *Shiman* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "providing specific attributes which relate to one object class for a purpose of enhancing searching," as recited in Claims 6 and 12. *Gadbois*, which is relied upon only for disclosure of a web services directory, does not cure the deficiencies of *Shiman* identified above.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-17 that depend on Claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively.

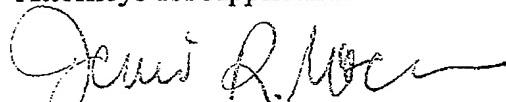
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

No fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credits to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: July 15, 2008

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